

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Specification:**

The Cross Reference to Related Cases section beginning at page 1, line 11 is replaced by the following:

--This application is related to co-pending, commonly owned patent application Serial No. 09/696,524, filed October 23, 2000, entitled "Polymer-Polymer Bilayer Actuator", and co-pending, commonly owned patent application Serial No. 09/696,526, filed October 23, 2000, entitled "Non-Uniform Thickness Electroactive Device."--

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 8, and 9 are replaced by the following:

1. (Amended) An electroactively controlled membrane structure, comprising:
a membrane whose position is to be controlled;
a supporting base;
at least one electroactive bending actuator affixed to the supporting base; and
connection means corresponding to each of the at least one electroactive bending actuators for operatively and nonrigidly connecting the membrane to each of the at least one electroactive bending actuators;
wherein displacement of the at least one electroactive bending actuator effects displacement of the membrane.

8. (Amended) ~~The structure of claim 1,~~ An electroactively controlled membrane structure, comprising:
a membrane whose position is to be controlled;
a supporting base;

at least one electroactive bending actuator affixed to the supporting base; and
connection means corresponding to each of the at least one electroactive bending
actuators for operatively connecting the membrane to each of the at least one electroactive
bending actuators;

wherein displacement of the at least one electroactive bending actuator effects
displacement of the membrane; and

further wherein each connection means comprises:

a guiding wheel assembly and a track, wherein displacement of the actuator effects
translation of the wheel assembly along the track, thereby imparting movement to the membrane.

9. (Amended) ~~The structure of claim 1,~~ An electroactively controlled membrane
structure, comprising:

a membrane whose position is to be controlled;

a supporting base;

at least one electroactive bending actuator affixed to the supporting base; and

connection means corresponding to each of the at least one electroactive bending
actuators for operatively connecting the membrane to each of the at least one electroactive
bending actuators;

wherein displacement of the at least one electroactive bending actuator effects
displacement of the membrane; and

further wherein each connection means comprises:

a guiding track affixed to the membrane;

a guiding wheel assembly, the guiding wheel assembly further comprising an axle,
affixed to the electroactive bending actuator, and four guiding wheels which maintain movement
of the axle along the guiding track;

whereby bending of the actuator effects displacement of the membrane.